Directorate General of Mines Safety under Ministry of Labour is empowered to grant permission for workings of the mines and is the implementing authority of the safety statutes as laid down in the Mine Act, 1952. Coal Mines Regulations, 1957 and the Rules made there under.

The Coal Mines Regulations contain provisions for leaving adequate barriers between mines. The DGMS circulars give guidelines for providing guards on the vicinity of embankments against rivers during Monsoons.

All efforts are taken to avoid accidents in coal mines and safety in coal mines is under close scrutiny of numerous bodies. As a result of the continuous efforts on the safety front since nationalisation the number of fatal accidents has reduced from 177 with 233 fatalities in 1975, the year of nationalisation, to 79 accidents with 99 fatalities in 2000. The fatality rate per M.Te. of coal production has been reduced from 2.66 to 0.37. All possible efforts shall continue to be taken in the coal mines of CIL towards a state of Zero Accident Potential.

श्री सुरेश पचौरी: सभापति महोदय, आज तो सारे प्रश्नों का उत्तर आडवाणी जी को देना है। ....**(व्यवधान)**

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Implementation of Food for Work programme in Rajasthan

*362. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given thought to the report appearing in 'The Hindu' dated 28th February, 2001, wherein Rajasthan Chief Minister has drawn Government's attention to the difficulties being faced in the implementation of Food for Work programme during the on-going drought and relief measures and had suggested that the programme should not be restricted to the Employment. Assurance Scheme alone;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government;

(c) whether Government are aware that the same problem is being faced by other States; and

(d) if so, whether Government have prepared a comprehensive plan in consultation with the Chief Ministers of the States to implement the scheme in a better way?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Food for Work Programme, initiated by the Government of India aims at augmenting food security through wage employment in the drought-affected rural areas of the States concerned viz., Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan and Uttaranchal. The Union Department of Food and Public Distribution have so far supplied 5 lakh tonnes of foodgrains to the drought affected States, free of cost, as an additionality, so as to ensure that wage-employment opportunities are provided to the rural poor who are in need of the same. The State Governments concerned have been addressed in regard to future projections of the requirements of additional foodgrains (rice/wheat).

The Guidelines for the Food for Work Programme have been formulated in the light of requisite inter-ministerial consultations and provide that the supply of foodgrains is to be made to the workmen at site on daily basis, under the supervision of State officials. Should the workmen of a Habitations choose to receive the foodgrains in their village, the same can also be arranged. Distribution through the PDS outlets is not envisaged in the interest of minimizing possible leakage.

The Programme targets supply of foodgrains to rural families who are below the Poverty Line. No other State Government has, so far, reported difficulties in implementation of the same.